

Friends of Millhouses Park Constitution

adopted on the TWELFTH day of June 1995

A Name

The name of the Association is "Friends of Millhouses Park" ("the Charity")

B Administration

Subject to the matters set out below the Charity and its property shall be administered and managed in accordance with this constitution by the members of the Executive Committee, constituted by clause G of this constitution ("the Executive Committee")

C Objects

The Charity's objects("the objects") are :

- to provide facilities in Millhouses Park in the interests of social welfare, recreation and leisure time for the community of Millhouses and for the citizens of Sheffield and to improve the conditions and quality of life of those people who use the park, without discrimination or exclusion by sex, race, ability or age;
- to increase the enjoyment, relaxation and health of all those who use the facilities and to encourage greater use of the park as a public amenity;
- to stimulate the educational, physical, creative, imaginative, social and cognitive development of children and young people across a range of ages and abilities;
- to minimise the risk of accident, hazard or infection to users of the park.

D Powers

(1) In furtherance of the objects but not otherwise, and subject to the limitations set out in clause (2), the Executive Committee may exercise the following powers:

(i) power to convene public meetings and in any other way elicit the views and interests of those who use the park and of other interested members of the public concerning the maintenance and development of the park as a public amenity and promote the objects of the Charity;

(ii) power to provide a recognised channel of communication between the community and Sheffield City Council ("the Council") on matters relating to the park;

(iii) power to raise funds and to invite and receive contributions provided that in raising funds the Executive Committee shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities and shall conform to any relevant requirements of the law;

(iv) power to co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the objects or of similar charitable purposes and to exchange information and advice with them;

(v) power to establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for all or any of the objects;

(vi) power to appoint and constitute such advisory committees as the Executive Committee may think fit;

(vii) power to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects

(2) In furtherance of the objects the Executive Committee's powers are limited by the provisos that the Charity may not:

(i) borrow money;

(ii) commit itself to expenditure for which it does not already possess funds.

E Membership

(1) Membership of the Charity shall be open to any person over the age of 18 years interested in furthering the objects and who has paid the annual subscription laid down from time to time by the Executive Committee.

(2) Every member shall have one vote

(3) The Executive Committee may by unanimous vote and for good reason terminate the membership of any individual: Provided that the individual concerned shall have the right to be heard by the Executive Committee, accompanied by a friend before a final decision is made.

(4) The Executive Committee may invite representatives of statutory or non-statutory organisations, who are not otherwise eligible for membership, to attend meetings of the Charity in an advisory non-voting capacity.

F Honorary Officers

At the annual general meeting of the Charity the members shall elect from amongst themselves a chairperson, a secretary and a treasurer, who shall hold office from the conclusion of that meeting.

G Executive Committee

(1) The Executive Committee shall consist of not less than four members and not more than ten members being:

(a) the honorary officers specified in the preceding clause

(b) not less than one and not more than seven members elected at the annual general meeting who shall hold office from the conclusion of that meeting;

(2) The Executive Committee may in addition appoint not more than three co-opted members but so that no-one may be appointed as a co-opted member if, as a result, more than one third of the members of the Executive Committee would be co-opted members. Each appointment of a co-opted member shall be made at a special meeting of the Executive Committee called under clause J and take effect from the end of that meeting unless the appointment is to fill a place which has not been vacated in which case the appointment shall run from the date when the post becomes vacant.

(3) All the members of the Executive shall retire from office together at the end of the annual general meeting next after the date on which they came into office but they may be re-elected or re-appointed.

(4) The proceedings of the Executive Committee shall not be validated by any vacancy amongst their number or by any failure to appoint or any defect in the appointment or qualification of a member.

(5) Nobody shall be appointed as a member of the Executive Committee who is aged under 18 or who would if appointed be disqualified under the provisions of the following clause.

(6) No person shall be entitled to act as a member of the Executive Committee whether on a first or on any subsequent entry into office until after signing in the minute book of the Executive Committee a declaration of acceptance and of willingness to act in the trusts of the Charity.

H Determination Of Membership Of The Executive Committee

A member of the Executive Committee shall cease to hold office if he or she:

(1) is disqualified from acting as a member of the Executive Committee by virtue of section 45 of the Charities Act 1992 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision);

(2) becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his or her own affairs;

(3) is absent without the permission of the Executive Committee from all the meetings held within a period of six months and the Executive Committee resolve that his or her office be vacated; or

(4) notifies to the Executive Committee a wish to resign (but only if at least four members of the Executive Committee will remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect).

I Executive Committee Members Not To Be Personally Interested

(1) Subject to the provisions of sub-clause(2) of this clause no member of the Executive Committee shall acquire any interest in property belonging to the Charity (otherwise than as a trustee for the Charity) or receive remuneration or be interested (otherwise than as a member of the Executive Committee) in any contract entered into by the Executive Committee.

(2) Any member of the Executive Committee for the time being who is a solicitor, accountant or other person engaged in a profession may charge and be paid all the usual professional charges for business done by him or her or his or her firm when instructed by the other members of the Executive Committee to act in a professional capacity on behalf of the Charity: Provided that at no time shall a majority of the members of the Executive Committee benefit under this provision and that a member of the Executive Committee shall withdraw from any meeting at which his or her remuneration, or that of his or her firm, is under discussion.

J Meetings And Proceedings Of The Executive Committee

(1) The Executive Committee shall hold at least two ordinary meetings each year. A special meeting may be called at any time by the chairperson or by any two members of the Executive Committee upon not less than four days notice being given to other members of the Executive Committee of the matters to be discussed but if the matters include an appointment of a co-opted member then not less than 21 days notice must be given.

(2) The chairperson shall act at meetings of the Executive Committee. If the chairperson is absent from any meeting, the members of the Executive Committee shall choose one of their number to be chairperson of the meeting before any other business is transacted.

(3) There shall be a quorum when at least one third of the numbers of members of the Executive Committee for the time being or four members of the Executive Committee, whichever is the greater, are present at a meeting.

(4) Every matter shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members of the Executive Committee present and voting on the question but in the case of equality of votes the chairperson of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

(5) The Executive Committee shall keep minutes in books kept for the purpose of the proceedings at meetings of the Executive Committee and any sub-committee.

(6) The Executive Committee may from time to time make and later rules for the conduct of their business, the summoning and conduct of their meetings and the custody of documents. No rule may be made which is inconsistent with this constitution.

(7) The Executive Committee may appoint one or more sub-committees consisting of three or more members of the Executive Committee for the purpose of making any inquiry or supervising or performing any function or duty which in the opinion of the Executive Committee would be more conveniently undertaken or carried out by a sub-committee: provided that all acts and proceedings of any such sub-committees shall be fully and promptly reported to the Executive Committee.

K Receipts And Expenditure

(1) The funds of the Charity, including all donations contributions and bequests, shall be paid into an account operated by the Executive Committee in the name of the Charity at such bank or building society as the Executive Committee shall from time to time decide. All cheques drawn on the account must be signed by at least two members of the Executive Committee.

(2) The funds belonging to the Charity shall only be applied in furthering the objects.

L Property

(1) Subject to the provisions of sub-clause (2) of this clause, the Executive Committee shall cause the title to:

(a) All land held by or in trust for the Charity which is not vested in the Official Custodian for Charities; and

(b) All investments held by or on behalf of the Charity;

to be vested either in a corporation entitled to act as custodian trustee or in not less than three individuals appointed by them as holding trustees. Holding trustees may be removed by the Executive Committee at their please and shall act in accordance with the lawful directions of the Executive Committee. Provided they act only in accordance with the lawful directions of the Executive Committee, the holding trustees shall not be liable for the acts and defaults of its members.

(2) If a corporation entitled to act as custodian trustee has not been appointed to hold the property of the Charity, the Executive Committee may permit any investments held by or in trust for the Charity to be held in the name of a clearing bank, trust corporation or any stockbroking company which is a member of the International Stock Exchange (or any subsidiary of any such stockbroking company) as nominee for the Executive Committee and may pay such a nominee reasonable and proper remuneration for acting as such.

M Accounts

The Executive Committee shall comply with their obligations under the Charities Act 1992 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that Act) with regard to:

- (i) the keeping of accounts records for the Charity;
- (ii) the preparation of annual statements of account for the Charity;
- (iii) the auditing or independent examination of the statements of account for the Charity; and
- (iv) the transmission of the statements of the Charity to the Commissioners.

N Annual Report

The Executive Committee shall comply with their obligations under the Charities Act 1992 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification to that Act) with regard to the preparation of an annual report and its transmission to the Commissioners.

O Annual Return

The Executive Committee shall comply with their obligations under the Charities Act 1992 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification to that Act) with regard to the preparation of an annual report and its transmission to the Commissioners.

P Annual General Meeting

- (1) There shall be an annual general meeting of the Charity Which shall be held in the month of June in each year or as soon as possible thereafter.
- (2) Every annual general meeting shall be called by the Executive Committee. The secretary shall give at least 21 days notice of the annual general meeting to all members of the Charity. All members of the Charity shall be entitled to attend and vote at he meeting.

(3) Before any other business is transacted at the first annual general meeting the persons present shall appoint a chairperson of the meeting. The chairperson shall be the chairperson of subsequent annual general meetings, but if he or she is not present before any other business is transacted, the persons present shall appoint a chairperson of the meeting.

(4) The Executive Committee shall present to each annual general meeting the report and accounts of the Charity for the preceding year.

(5) Nominations for election to the Executive Committee must be made by members of the Charity in writing and must be in the hands of the secretary of the Executive Committee at least 14 days before the annual general meeting. Should nominations exceed the vacancies, elections shall be by ballot.

Q Special General Meetings

The Executive Committee may call a special general meeting of the Charity at any time. If at least ten members request such a meeting in writing stating the business to be considered the secretary shall call such a meeting. At least 21 day's notice must be given. The notice must state the business to be discussed.

R Procedure At General Meetings

(1) The secretary or other person specially appointed by the Executive Committee shall keep a full record of proceedings at every general meeting of the Charity.

(2) There shall be a quorum when at least one tenth of the number of members of the Charity for the time being or ten members of the Charity, whichever is the greater, are present at any general meeting.

S Notice

Any notice required to be served on any member of the Charity shall be in writing and shall be served by the secretary or the Executive Committee on any member either personally or by sending it through the post in a prepaid letter addressed to such member at his or her last known address in the United Kingdom, and any letter so sent shall be deemed to have been received within 10 days of posting.

T Alterations To The Constitution

(1) Subject to the following provisions of this clause the Constitution may be altered by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members present and voting at a general meeting. The notice of the general meeting must include notice of the resolution setting out the terms of the alteration proposed.

